(b) A delegation visited Singapore from 29th May to 11th June, 2005. The Navel wing consisted of one Naval NCC officer and six NCC cadets and the Air Wing comprised of one Air Force NCC officer and four NCC cadets.

(c) The total expenditure incurred was Rs. 5,09,312/-.

Exemption of Ex-servicemen for contribution to ECHS

2388. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that war-disabled Ex-servicemen have been exempted from payment of contribution to the Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme;

(b) if so, whether Government had issued guidelines to the concerned authorities in this regard;

(c) if so, whether Government had also accorded such status to the pensioners of the Ex-servicemen; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI B.K.HANDIQUE):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) There is no exemption from payment of contribution to ECHS to the Ex-servicemen persioners because the scheme is a contributory one.

Kelkar Committee recommendations on defence production

2389. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be plessed to state:

(a) whether the Kelkar Committee has submitted its recommendations to Government;

(b) what are the important suggestions made by the Committee to allow private sector firms for production of strategic weapons system and to produce new materials; and